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Arriving in Australia with Two Sexes

Tracie O'Keefe: The New Girl on the Block

by Dr. Tracie O'Keefe D.C.H.

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Dr. Tracie O'Keefe D.C.H.

As the new girl on the block I have been in Australia for just a few weeks now, as a greener than green immigrant. Although I was born officially male, and due to an obstinate and ignorant British government, that still remains on my birth certificate, even though I have lived as, and have a passport as a female for thirty years.

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So to get a tax number here in Australia, as a middle-aged woman I had to show my birth certificate that said male on it.

"Oh we don't bother about that sort of thing here", the man at the tax office told me. "Why the hell should you" I thought to myself, but said nothing, remembering that people are simply not educated at school about the sheer physical and psychological diversities of sex, gender and sexuality.

Katrina, my lesbian life partner, was spared explaining to the tax office that she is legally my wife and I am her husband. To the counter staff she seemed just another immigrant with a visa who they wished to deal with as quickly as possible.

As she walked away from the counter she sensed amusement among the staff that I was transsexual. If I had been black, Jewish, Hispanic, or Catholic, would they have reacted quite the same? I wondered. But I was the immigrant, so it was not the time to object.

Some of you who have read my books or heard about me on the internet will know by now about the large sex discrimination case I won in England last year.

As a doctor in my own field I had been refused entry into a professional organisation that gave me access to National Health (equivalent to Medicare) patients.

Some people in that organisation had purposefully falsified documents to stop me becoming a member. Fortunately they had been silly enough to leave a paper trail and the Industrial Tribunal Board were able to see the way they had purposefully discriminated against me after it became public knowledge in March 1997 when my first book came out, that I was a transsexual woman.

It was the first case of its kind in the United Kingdom where sex discrimination in preventing a person from joining a professional organisation was proved, and resulted in the highest recorded award for damages to a transsexual person so far.

It took four years to fight through the courts and thousands of hours between me, my lawyer and other supporting people to uncover evidence that had been purposefully concealed. Well it was worth it, because we eventually won.

For me as a therapist it was a fight I had to fight. I had to ask myself: How could I sit in my office telling people to stick up for themselves if I allowed myself to be discriminated against?

But I think when a person fights against discrimination, the time and the place must be right for them. Not every time or place is the right one.

For me the tax office when I had just come into the country was not the right time - I was new to the country and my position was precarious. Also some people need more help than others to cope with such situations.

What I can tell you is that I and my beloved Katrina are here in Australia for good. We believe in freedom of speech, a right to privacy, and the way forward in dissolving prejudice depends on three things - education, education, and education.

We believe in equal rights for all and next year we are going to be in that fabulous Mardi Gras Parade. In fact we will see you in the sex and gender variant section. Hope you will join us.

What do you mean there is not such a section? There is now!

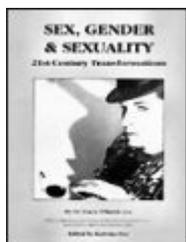
Dr. Tracie O'Keefe D.C.H., B.H.Sc., N.D.

From Tracie O'Keefe's website:  Tracie O'Keefe is a qualified and registered clinical hypnotherapist (A.S.O.C.H.A., psychotherapist, counsellor, mental health professional and trainer, working from a naturopathic perspective in Sydney, Australia. She trained at a post-graduate level with the National School of Hypnosis and Advanced Psychotherapy in London, U.K. U.K.C.P.-recognised school). Her degree and doctorate were earned at the American Institute of Hypnotherapy in the U.S.A. and issued in co-ordination with the Bureau for Private Post-Secondary and Vocational Education in California. She has been a family and couples therapist, a sex therapist and addictions therapist for many years and a qualified naturopath and medical herbalist, who trained in nutritional medicine with the Australian Institute of Applied Sciences. She holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree in Complementary Medicine from Charles Sturt University. She is also an internationally published researcher, author and editor of the following books. [Read more about Dr. Tracie O'Keefe at her website](#) 



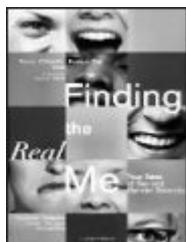
Trans-X-U-All: The Naked Difference
Author: Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox Publisher: Extraordinary People Press (1997)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0952948209.

From Google Books:  This fresh and concise work takes an exciting look at the world of transsexuals. It explains the whole gender reassignment process from start to finish and includes deeply moving stories written by transsexuals themselves, their lovers, families and friends. Scientific, factual, informative, it provides, in accessible language, a comprehensive guide to the world of transsexuality.



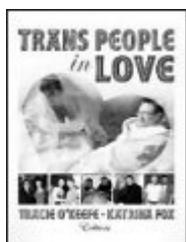
Sex, Gender & Sexuality: 21st Century Transformations
Author: Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox
Publisher: Extraordinary People Press (1999)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 0952948223

From Google Books:  This book dispels much of the mysticism around physical sex, gender constructs, and the diversity of sexuality. As well as considering gay, lesbian, transsexual and transgendered identities, it also looks at the intersex groups, such as hermaphrodites, and people who identify as androgynous or as being without sex or gender.



Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex and Gender Diversity
Author: Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox
Publisher: Jossey-Bass (2003)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0787965471

From Google Books:  *Finding the Real Me* is an extraordinary collection of real-life stories told by a wide-range of sex and gender diverse people. These healing tales of struggle and transformation reveal just how creative, resourceful, and adventurous the individuals in this community can be and also helps to bridge the gap between ignorance and understanding. As each incredible story unfolds we become part of the author's journey to self-acceptance and join the celebration of their new life. Page by page, we laugh, cry, and learn to appreciate these wonderful courageous people and the road they walked to be their true-selves. *Finding the Real Me* is a landmark book that encourages us to embrace diversity, to never fear our differences, and to remain always in awe of our amazing possibilities.



Trans People in Love
Author: Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox
Publisher: Routledge (2008)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 0789035721

From Google Books:  *Trans People in Love* provides a forum for the experience of being in love and in relationships with significant others for members of the trans community. This honest and respectful volume tells clinicians, scholars, and trans people themselves of the beauty and complexity that trans identity brings to a romantic relationship, what skills and mindsets are needed to forge positive relationships, and demonstrates the reality that trans people in all stages of transition can create stable and loving relationships that are both physically and emotionally fulfilling.

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to

make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.